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COUNTRY China/USSR
SUBJECT Situation in Sinkiang
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Administration

1. No large-scale reorganization of government departments took place in Sinkiang during the last six months of 1950, apart from moves to unite more closely the various executive branches of all government departments. New personnel from China representing the more theoretical type of Communist were being introduced, and at the same time Soviet advisers and technical assistants became the accepted rule. This direction from the top, which is so characteristic of Communism, was reflected only slightly in the press, but was the cause of a good deal of friction and anti-Communist comment. In general it appeared that the Soviets were given facilities beyond those given to Chinese doing the same task. Some of the criticism appeared in open letters in the Sinkiang daily paper, but the facile replies to it were in some cases the subjects of adverse comment by the man in the street, in what might be termed a whispering campaign.
2. Figures such as CHU Wu, former mayor of Urumchi under the Kuomintang and wholly pro-Communist, have disappeared from the scene, and few if any high ranking officials remain in the Province. Most of the political administration is carried on by numerous petty officials brought from China and with no experience of Sinkiang conditions. This is less true of the military side, where Generals PENG Te-huai, CHANG Chih-chung and WANG Chen still dominate the military areas of northern and southern Sinkiang.
3. Politically Sinkiang has become more solidly Communist: there remains only a small part of the population which has not yet passed through some course or other; educational organizations are manned throughout by ardent Communists; the whole police force and army have been similarly processed; hostels and other institutions work on a basis completely Soviet, and much interchange of cultural media has already taken place with the Soviet areas of Central Asia.
4. Political leaders no longer really represent the people but are nominees

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brought in from outside who follow a program laid down for them in Peiping and Moscow. There is no question of popularity or otherwise, but only a blind obedience to announced plans which are to be carried out as part of the nation-wide progress towards a Socialist society.

Taxation

5. Taxation appears to be a potent source of trouble in that the assessors called upon to deal with agricultural production are frequently men whose experience has been in areas where the use of fertilizer is general and the rate of production much higher. In consequence they accuse the farmers of lack of initiative or of evasion; meetings are held throughout the Province at which the output of each farm is discussed, and the farmers are assessed on the basis of the optimum harvest rather than on the actual situation. Petitions from the farmers for fair treatment have been ignored and the leaders have been told that unless they cease from their agitation their farms will be taken from them.

Production and Export

6. A further source of discontent is the export to the USSR of large quantities of grain, said to be payment for trucks and other materials received from China (sic). All cotton and hides from Sinkiang are exported to the USSR.
7. Oil production has not greatly increased, and the increase in transportation has materially decreased the amount of gasoline available for private merchants. Consequently trade has declined, and is now offset by the large government companies which are virtually subsidiaries of the Sino-Soviet companies originally announced in the Sino-Soviet trade treaty.

Resistance

8. In late 1950 the Kazakhs still maintained complete control of the Baitik Bogdo region and large areas in the T'ien-shan, under the leadership of Osman and Yolbars*. The hard core of resistance is found among the Tungkan cavalry, who remain undaunted. The effective fighting strength of these groups is approximately 20,000, and their spirit of resistance to the Communists was in no way dampened by the capture of Janimkhan**. Attacks are made on sizeable convoys on the main road from the USSR to China, and by the end of 1950 enough arms and equipment to keep them going for several years had been acquired in this way. Within fifty miles to the northwest and southwest of Urumchi Chinese Communist bandit-suppression troops have been ambushed and annihilated.
9. Up to October 1950 the Chinese Communist army had made no headway whatever against the non-Chinese tribes in the Salar Moslem area north-northeast of the Koko Nor. The well-fortified nature of the farms in that area may have been a factor in the successful resistance offered.

Transportation

10. The Hami-Alma Ata airline employs a few Chinese clerks but uses Russian planes, pilots, air crew and office staff. This condition obtains all the way from Urumchi to Peiping.
11. Not far from Urumchi, on the Suilai (Manass, 86-19, 44-21) road, there are large areas of maintenance depots which are completely Chinese, while to the south of Urumchi, on the Turfan (39-05, 42-56) road, the Soviets have set up not only service stations, rest houses, warehouses, and the like, but also a fairly complete thermal power plant. The convoy system pertains throughout the still unsettled areas around Hami, together with new construction of bridges and culverts. It is believed that the Soviets are planning to use this main road through Urumchi as one of their main supply routes into Northwest China. The Russians have their own completely separate transportation system, including Russian trucks, drivers, gasoline and main-

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tenance depots. The Chinese use Russian trucks, but Chinese drivers and gasoline, and have separate warehouses and maintenance depots.

12. The short supply of gasoline during 1950 made the cost of running trucks prohibitive to private traders, with the result that the government took over nearly all the privately owned trucks in the Province. Even when the trucks were operated by provincial or municipal transportation authorities, all gasoline had to be transported from Chiuch'uan (98-33, 39-46). Up to the end of October 1950 trucks were not allowed to go to the oilfields, but drivers bought their supplies from official dealers in Chiuch'uan. The drivers who bring the oil from the wells and refineries to Chiuch'uan live in special hostels built for them at Yumen. It was reported in October 1950 that several thousand rooms had been built for the staff of the oilfield, which is kept completely isolated from all outside contacts. About seven Soviet advisers and technicians are said to be at the oilfield. According to the press, the production had been increased 100 percent since the Chinese Communists took over; however, only three or four new wells were opened during 1950, and the rate of production for these is not known.
13. Roads and factories are being repaired and put to productive use in a manner calculated to make the people believe that there is nothing so productive on earth as a Communist state. Prostitutes have been given courses of instruction and put into working units in factories. One problem not entirely settled was the matter of hired labor during the winter months, which has always been a major problem in Sinkiang Province. However, many laborers have been recruited by reasonable pay and conditions to work in the coal mines and at carting stone and building materials for the coming summer plan. According to the press, the "Period of Construction," which follows the suppression of the majority of anti-Communist elements, has come to Sinkiang Province.

The Press and Propaganda

14. The Urumchi papers were full of anti-American and pro-Chinese-volunteer movements, which were used as a stimulus to exhort the people to greater effort in every sphere. Meetings were held in colleges, schools and government departments to obtain the names of volunteers ready to leave their homes and fight in Korea. The press claimed that some 700 had responded during the first three days of this campaign but that those not suitable for fighting purposes would be given badges of recognition and sent back to their respective occupations to set the pace for others who did not volunteer. In the Urumchi power plant a new low was experienced in temporary power cuts and break-downs, and line men in the communications department established a new record in the number of new phones installed and repairs made. These examples show how the ordinary people are being driven into closer identification with anti-American activities in carrying out their daily work.

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* Comment. [] reported Yolbars in Tibet in January 1951. Despite Chinese Communist claims to have captured Osman Bator, [] there are indications that he may have escaped to Tibet.

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** Comment. According to the Chinese Communists, Janimkhan was captured in September 1950 and executed 4 February 1951.

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